

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EB-11 DOTE-00 IO-13 COME-00 CAB-09

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01 /110 W

----- 116417

P R 171125Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3784

USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: DECON AUG. 18, 1974

TAGS: PINS, LE, IS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO AUG. 16 MEA HIJACKING

1. HIJACKING OF LEBANESE MEA AIRLINER AUG. 16 DOMINATED BEIRUT PRESS TODAY. ONLY RIGHTWING AL AMAL, CONSERVATIVE AL YAYAT AND MODERATE AL JARIDA CARRIED HEADLINE DESCRIBING HIJACKER AS "DRUNKEN LIBYAN," WHILE VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER PAPERS, ESPECIALLY LEFTIST ORGANS, INSISTED HE WAS "ISRAELI AGENT". EDITORIALLY, INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR COMMENTED: "IT IS NOT COINCIDENCE THAT YESTERDAY'S OPERATION FOLLOWS UNANIMOUS CONDEMNATION BY SC OF ISRAEL," AND VIEWED IT AS ISRAEL FLAUNTING ITS CONTEMPT FOR WORLD OPINION. SUGGESTED ISRAEL HAD RECRUITED LIBYAN FOR ZIONIST ENDS TO EMBARRASS QADHAFI FOR CHAMPIONING PALESTINIAN CAUSE. NAHRA CONCLUDED ISRAEL WAS TRANSFERRING ME STRUGGLE TO AIR-
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LINES IN ORDER DISTRACT WORLD ATTENTION FROM HER

OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS.

2. WITH MOST PAPERS QUESTIONING HIJACKER'S TRUE IDENTITY, IT NOT SURPRISING THAT WIDE SEGMENT OF LEBANESE OPINION (INCLUDING PEOPLE WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER FROM READING UNBIASED NEWS STORIES) HAS CONVINCED ITSELF THAT ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION LIES IN SOME NEW AND DIABOLICAL ISRAELI PPLT. (IN THIS RESPECT, DEP. ASST. SECY. ATHERTON'S REMARKS TO ISRAELI AMB. DINITZ -- C.F., STATE 163114 NOTAL --WERE RIGHT ON TARGET.) WE NOTE FEDAYEEN VIA THEIR VARIOUS PROPAGANDA ORGANS ARE PLAYING THIS THEME FOR ALL IT WORTH, CLAIMING, INTER ALIA, THAT INCIDENT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL ISRAELI ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE FATAH LEADER SALAH KHALAF AND WAS CARRIED OUT IN FASHION THAT WOULD ENABLE GOI AVOID RENEWED UN CONDEMNATION. AS USUAL, LEBANESE LEFT HAS SUCKED UP SUCH NONSENSE GREEDILY, KAMAL JUMBLATT GOING SO FAR AS TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE TOO HAS BEEN TARGETED FOR CAPTURE BY ISRAEL.

BUFFUM

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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